

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • MARCH 2007

OPC Awards Dinner Set for April 26 *Kristof to Speak, Couric to Present Awards*

by Sonya K. Fry

The award entries are in, judges are judging and the OPC is busy organizing the annual awards dinner, to be held this year on Thursday, April 26. We will return to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel since an overwhelming number of OPC members, award winners and guests were excited about the new venue last year.

The featured speaker will be OPC member Nicholas D. Kristof, Op-Ed columnist for *The New York Times*, who has consistently told the world about the genocide in Darfur. He and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, together won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square democracy movement. Kristof was the *Times*' Beijing bureau chief when the story broke in 1989.

Kristof graduated from Harvard, won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, studied Arabic in Cairo and Chinese in Taipei, worked in France, and backpacked around Africa and Asia writing articles to cover his expenses. He is also one of the very few Americans to be at least a two-time visitor to every member of the "Axis of Evil." Kristof sounds like our kind of journalist.

The awards presenter this year will be Katie Couric, the new anchor for the



Nicholas D. Kristof



Katie Couric

"CBS Evening News." Katie became well known as co-host of NBC's "Today" show for 15 years. She is the first solo female anchor of the "big three" network news broadcasts. Her interviews include Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, the two George Bushes, and Bill Clinton; Prime Minister Tony Blair; Senator Hillary Clinton and First Lady Laura Bush. John F. Kennedy, Jr. gave Couric his first and last interviews.

The President's Award will be unique this year. OPC President Marshall Loeb, in cooperation with the Board of Governors, will give the award to all journalists who have been injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The OPC usually has a moving ceremony at the beginning of each dinner lighting a candle in honor of those journalists who have been killed during the year doing their job as reporters. It was felt that a great number of journalists have been seriously injured and should be recognized as well. The details and the presentation of this honor are still being worked out.

Tickets to the dinner are \$200 for OPC members and one guest. Non-members are \$300.

Tables are priced at \$12,000 (Patron), \$8,000 (Sponsor), and \$5,000 (Friend). Tables are for 10 guests and the sponsoring organization receives credit in the official Program. I am always asked why there are different prices for the tables and my response is always the same, "Location, Location, Location."

Former President Larry Martz and new board member Kate Hunt of Care International are coordinating the judging effort. Since the OPC has 21 different judging committees it is quite an organizational feat.

Dateline magazine, which is published in conjunction with the awards dinner, is once again under the able editorship of Michael Serrill, who is now with *Bloomberg Markets Magazine*. This year *Dateline* will be produced by the Columbia Journalism Review. As in years past the winning photography will be a highlight of the magazine.

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Iraqi Journalists in Their Own Words

OPC EVENT PREVIEW/MARCH 5

by Jacqueline Albert-Simon

Since the start of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the country's own journalists have placed themselves in serious danger from all sides, working as they have to search for truths and keep the Iraqi public informed. The OPC has asked three Iraqis who were forced to flee their country because of intimidation, job loss, threats to family, or fears for their own future, to meet with OPC members. They will talk about what it has been like for Iraqi journalists, who thought they had a newly liberated press; what happened to it; and the U.S. protection and encouragement that later dissipated completely.

Here's a chance to hear from experts who can share their thoughts on the war coverage, the murderous efforts to muzzle the Iraqi media, their insights into the country's twisted political structure, the rage in Sunni and Shiite communities, and the way the U.S. occupation is perceived.

Ali Fadhil was trained as a medical doctor in Iraq, and after the invasion turned to journalism as a way to help his countrymen. He worked first as an interpreter for the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, *Time*, *The New Yorker* and NPR. Since 2004 he has made several documentaries for Channel 4 in London. Forced to leave Iraq for reasons he'll tell us, Ali Fadhil is now a Fulbright scholar

in the Department of Journalism at NYU. His compelling op-ed piece in *The New York Times* on Sept. 6, 2006 was the inspiration for this panel.

Zeyad Kasim has been at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism since arriving in America in September 2006. He was a freelance journalist in Baghdad, and the author of the "Healing Iraq" blog (<http://healingiraq.blogspot.com>). His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the *Guardian*, among others.

Ayub Nuri is at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Before arriving in New York in August 2006, he was a freelance radio reporter in Iraq and then a reporter for the Institute of War and Peace Reporting. He covered the war in 2003 and the insurgency that followed. He regularly contributed articles to www.opendemocracy.com and www.iwpr.net and the Kurdish newspaper, *Hawlati*. Nuri's haunting op-ed piece in *The New York Times* on Feb. 16, 2007 addressed the dangers Iraqi journalists face each day and how he lives with the terrible news regarding his colleagues still there (*see sidebar*).

Please join us for this March 5 event at Club Quarters. Reception starts at 5:30pm followed by the talk at 6:15pm. For reservations, call the OPC at 212-626-9220.

An excerpt from Ayub Nuri's Feb. 16 New York Times op-ed, in which he recounts his experiences since coming to New York last August:

Explaining the complexity of the situation in Iraq to everyone I met made me tired, and after a while I did not enjoy meeting people anymore. I stopped going to happy hour. I wished I could have a conversation about a different subject—American history or the American electoral system—but it rarely happened.

I realize now that there simply is no way for me to escape the bitterness of this war. It has become part of my life. One night, after a dinner party with some classmates, I turned on my computer to read my e-mail messages. The first message I opened was from Iraq. It carried the news of the death of a dear friend of mine. He was killed by a car bomb in Baghdad. I cried most of the night. A few days later I erased his e-mail address from my address book.

A month later, my phone rang very early in the morning. The voice on the other end told me that another close friend—a reporter in Ramadi—was killed while covering a story in Baghdad. I mourned alone in my apartment.

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Chávez Consolidates, Tells Foes: 'Go to Hell!'

FROM THE FIELD/VENEZUELA

by Rachel Jones

In a posh Caracas shopping mall in late January, a handful of intellectuals gathered in a dimly lit theater for what was supposed to be a debate on the future of Radio Caracas Television. President Hugo Chávez, shortly after his sweeping victory in the Dec. 3 elections, had declared that he would not renew the broadcasting licence of the 53-year-old, opposition-aligned television station.

But the promised debate turned into a series of self-righteous monologues—none of Chávez' supporters, or "Chavistas," had accepted the invitation to participate.

And indeed, why should they? Chávez has obtained approval from the National Assembly—which is 100 percent filled with his supporters—to create laws by decree for the next 18 months. He has announced far-reaching nationalization plans—including the telecommunications, electricity and natural gas industries—and is working to consolidate his followers into one political party. What's to debate?

His declarations have met with little resistance—at two recent opposition demonstrations, only a few hundred people turned out to protest. And for many Chavistas, in a country where more than 2 million people live on less than \$1 a day, developments such as the recent expropriation of a private airport outside of the capital hold little relevance.

What's more important to the president's largely lower class support base are his social programs, which provide access to free health care and education and subsidized food. Still, some Chavistas are beginning to question the programs' effectiveness. At a small rally in the upscale Caracas neighborhood of Chacao, a few recently gathered to demonstrate their disappointment. "Where are the jobs?" one red-clad protester asked plaintively.

But perhaps the most significant challenge facing the president is the country's escalating crime rate; homicides have increased by 67 percent since 1999. A 29-year-old single mother I interviewed in the Petare neighbourhood in eastern

Caracas—one of Latin America's largest slums—told me she's so fearful for the lives of her three young sons that she only allows them out of the house to go to school.

Last October, I watched an elderly woman take a stray bullet—in broad daylight—on a busy street in the city center. As her companions frantically tried to lift her onto a passing bus, blood stained her long white skirt. The police never came.

The police force has faced multiple charges of misconduct. In some in-



Hugo Chávez on his weekly TV show, "Álo Presidente"

stances, officers themselves have been implicated in murders. In mid-January, angered by the unexplained death of a teenager in custody, protesters rioted and burned down a police station in Caracas' 23 de Enero slum.

Accusations of corruption have been hurled at all levels of government. Many argue that the Chávez administration is creating a class of nouveau riche.

But these issues somehow fade in the face of Chávez' anti-imperialist, pro-Socialism of the 21st Century rhetoric. Thousands religiously watch his weekly television show, "Álo Presidente," during which he does everything from play the xylophone to rail against his favourite enemy—the United States. During a Jan. 21 broadcast, he accused U.S. officials, who had responded with concern to his nationalization plans, of meddling.

"Gringos, go to hell!" he declared.

I often think about how boring it will be, after working as a journalist in Venezuela, to cover another government. Nobody produces quotes like Chávez.

But Americans in Caracas rarely face any real antagonism; many are suspected of being Chavistas themselves. My

Spanish teacher once offered her assessment of foreigners' attraction to Venezuela. "Germans come here because they like nature," she said. "Americans come here because they like Chávez."

There is an underlying sense of suspicion and paranoia on both sides of the political spectrum. Chávez and his supporters regularly warn of an imminent U.S. invasion or attempt to overthrow his government.

Meanwhile, opposition members will sometimes tell you—with absolute conviction, despite positive reports from foreign observers—that Chávez stole the election. Everything that's wrong with the country, no matter how ridiculous—the ticket machines in the metro stations that don't work, the beggar on the sidewalk, the dirt covering the building across the street—becomes the president's fault.

One woman I know, who generously invited me and some others over for a New Year's dinner of typical Venezuelan food, refused to partake in her own cooking—or to even celebrate Christmas—because "Chávez is in power."

But despite a general feeling of discontent, the opposition is doing little. If they were afraid to step outside their bubble of security in the past—many in Caracas live in gated communities or within the 10-block radius where it's actually considered safe to walk the streets at night—they're more so now.

The president has promised to hold a referendum to eliminate term limits, which would allow him to continue governing after his term expires in 2012. And considering that Chávez recently won an overwhelming election victory, with 62 percent of the vote, few doubt that he will succeed. When he does, allowing him to hold on to the power he's now consolidating, it's likely that the idea of participating in a debate over a television channel's right to broadcast will seem even more far-fetched.

Rachel Jones, who won the OPC Foundation's Theo Wilson Scholarship in 2006, is now working as a reporter and editor at the English-language Daily Journal in Caracas, Venezuela.

2007 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



Seated (l-r): Andrew Greenberg, Emily Rotberg, Sareena Dalla, Katie Paul and Elizabeth Dickinson; Standing (l-r): Antonio Castaneda, Aaron Clark, Samantha Friedman, Ed Ou, Erica Schlaikjer, Ben Hubbard and Jeremy Gantz.

A list of the 2007 scholarship winners, their affiliations, the prize they won, and a brief description of the winning essay.

Antonio Castaneda

London School of Economics and
Political Science

ALEXANDER KENDRICK SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler

Now pursuing a graduate degree in public policy, Antonio—a Columbia University grad—finds himself irresistibly drawn to the Middle East. As a correspondent for The Associated Press in Iraq, he witnessed “humanity’s worst side manifest itself daily on neighborhood streets.” His essay tells the story of “Mr. Wilson” and how his family’s eventual departure from its home in downtown Ramadi symbolized the death of this once busy hub.

Erica Schlaikjer

Northwestern University

DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family

Raised in various posts around the globe as the daughter of an American diplomat, Erica intends to return to Taiwan, a “prime location to learn about the world’s globalizing forces.” She wrote about the impact of the Internet on the Chinese youth culture, viewed from her own seat in an Internet cafe in

Shanghai. Expecting political or subversive activities, she found most Internet use was not unlike the day-to-day habits of her American friends.

Andrew Greenberg

New York University

REUTERS SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Reuters

While working for an environmental non-profit magazine in Beijing, Andrew, a Mandarin speaker, stumbled across ways Chinese hackers and Internet users battle Chinese government sensors in an endless tit-for-tat fight for Internet freedom. The Haverford graduate wrote about the quandary of impartially covering an issue so closely linked to the fate of reporters in an increasingly digital world.

Elizabeth Dickinson

Yale University

HARPER’S MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP

in memory of I.F. Stone

Endowed by John R. MacArthur, publisher of Harper’s, and friends

Elizabeth told the story of the nearly 25,000 Dakar flood victims forced to live in government camps while the struggling democracy in Senegal failed to deliver on its promise to rebuild their neighborhoods. The Yale senior focused on one 65-year-old woman weary after a year of sharing a one-room tent with 10

children. Elizabeth speaks French, Krio and Yoruba and intends to return to West Africa to “do justice to the people whose lives underlie every story.”

Katie Paul

Vassar College

IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP

*Endowed by the Scripps Howard
Foundation*

Katie wrote about the political dynamism of Morocco. Witnessing frequent protests and demonstrations on the streets of Rabat, the Vassar senior’s own experiences challenge the American notion that Muslim culture is repressive. Proficient in Arabic, French and Spanish, Katie is the first recipient of the Reuters/OPC Foundation internship and will spend a month this summer at the Reuters bureau in Sao Paulo or Mexico City.

Jeremy Gantz

Northwestern University

H.L. STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by donations from
family and friends*

A graduate of Carleton College and a former Fulbright scholar, Jeremy is fascinated by the parliamentary democracies and deeply undemocratic traditions of South Asia. He wrote about India’s huge, mostly rural army of child laborers, as seen through the eyes of two young boys whose greatest hope was to attend school. Jeremy is the first recipient of the *Cambodia Daily*/OPC Foundation internship and will travel to Phnom Penh this summer.

Ben Hubbard

University of California, Berkeley

STAN SWINTON SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by the Swinton Family

A Northwestern graduate, Ben spent two years studying Arabic in Cairo. He wrote about Egypt’s repressive but U.S.-endorsed regime of Hosni Mubarak, suggesting Washington may one day have to choose between a friendly dictator or an anti-American democracy. A graduate student in journalism at Berkeley, Ben is this year’s recipient of the AP/OPC Foundation internship. He will spend a month this summer in the AP’s Jerusalem bureau.

(Continued on Page 11)

Raddatz: 'Give People a Reason to Care'

OPC SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH

by Jane Reilly

"Reporting the truth," said Martha Raddatz, chief White House correspondent for ABC News, "can be challenging. It's not always clear-cut what the truth is." Issues are so complex and change so rapidly, especially in areas of conflict, that even this veteran foreign correspondent is willing to admit, "One person's truth is not another person's truth. Sometimes, it's obvious. Other times, not at all."

In a riveting Feb. 16 talk to the nearly 250 people assembled for the 16th annual Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholarship Luncheon at the Yale Club, the award-winning reporter—who replaced CNN's Anderson Cooper after he was sent to Brazil the week of the luncheon—told the sold-out crowd that her answer to divining facts in a complex world is to go to the places she covers. Even though she is a White House correspondent, Raddatz believes the best way to cover the current administration is to understand the pressures it faces, especially in the area of national security. "It gives me the background to challenge the White House on the issues it should be challenged on," she said. That she is often on overseas assignments has not been lost on President George Bush who, in a press briefing the same week, readily admitted that Raddatz might have the better perspective on the war in Iraq since she has been there on the ground and he has not.

As she has been on each of her dozen assignments in Iraq, Raddatz, who returned from Baghdad only four days before the luncheon, was embedded with the troops and reported that morale was better than expected, even as they face the most recent dilemma of trying to identify who the enemy is. "Insurgents? Sectarians? Saddamists?" she asked. "They have no handle on whom they're fighting anymore."

Her concern for American servicemen and women led her to write her first book, "The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family" [New York: G.P. Putnam], which goes on sale in March. It details the depth of pain, courage and heartbreak she discovered as she began to look at the emotional toll the war has taken on military personnel and their families.



Martha Raddatz

At a time when news media are closing international bureaus and cutting budgets, Raddatz said she feels an important part of her role as a reporter is to make Americans care about the news, especially international news. "I can't just write the facts," she said. "I have to give people a reason to care."

She encouraged the scholarship winners to be good citizens and good family members. While being a mother and a war correspondent has its challenges, she said she is grateful for her family. "Don't become one-dimensional," she advised.

The challenge to seek out and accept the risks involved in good journalism especially resonated with the twelve 2007 OPC Foundation Scholarship winners, who had just accepted their awards from various family members and close friends of those in whose names the scholarships are given (see page 4). Besides a check for \$2,000, the recipients also received a year's membership in the Overseas Press Club. Reuters hosted a reception honoring past and present winners of OPC Foundation scholarships the night before the luncheon at its headquarters in Times Square. The group met with veteran foreign correspondents in a morning program before the luncheon and toured the headquarters of The Associated Press in the afternoon.

As master of ceremonies, Bill Holstein articulated the purpose of the scholarships as well as the Foundation's mission. Recognizing that American

news organizations are undergoing a profound transformation, he noted, "It is incumbent upon us, those who care about what Americans know about the world, that we identify the best and the brightest of the next generation of correspondents, and attempt to give them the incentives and the tools to go out into the world."

The 2007 winners, seven graduate students and five undergraduate students, were selected from a pool of applicants from 65 different colleges and universities. The winners came from Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, The London School of Economics, New York University, Northwestern, University of California at Berkeley, University of Southern California, University of Missouri, Vassar College and Yale University. Three of this year's winners also earned internships through the Foundation's partnership relationships with The Associated Press, *Cambodia Daily* and Reuters. The Foundation will pay for the recipients' travel and living expenses for one month as they work in foreign bureaus.

The OPC Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2007 Scholarship Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of the scholarship program and growth of the internship program.

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PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

GLOBAL: AP foreign correspondents on the move: **Kim Gamel** from New York to Baghdad; **Edward Harris** from Dakar to New York; **Steven R. Hurst** from Cairo to Iraq; **Karin Laub** from Jerusalem to Ramallah; **Ed McCullough** from Southern Europe to Latin America and the Caribbean; **Michael Melia** from New York to San Juan; **Patrick Quinn** from Athens to Cairo; **Robert Reid** from Brussels to Amman; **Jason Straziuso** from New York to Kabul; **Robert Sullivan** from Asia-Pacific to Sydney;

Christopher Torchia from Singapore to Istanbul; and **Richard Vogel** from Hanoi to Los Angeles.

NATIONAL: The death of **Art Buchwald** in January brought memories back to a World War II buddy and an OPC member. During the war, **Carl Warner** and Buchwald served with the



Art Buchwald in his Washington office in 1971 with a wire bust of himself.

U.S. Marines on Engebi, one of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. Carl, a former UPI correspondent in Latin America, had not been in touch with Buchwald since the war, but he wrote to him last year when he learned the columnist was in a hospital. Several weeks later, a large envelope from Buchwald arrived at Warner's home in Clinton, Tennessee. It contained several maps of Engebi that Buchwald had drawn more than 60 years ago, a personal note, handwritten memories of life on Engebi and several Marine Corps mementos.

OPC member **Dan Morris** visited Buchwald's Paris office in 1962 to say hello to the fellow alum of the University of Southern California. After chatting, Art said he was on deadline and asked Dan to take two women visitors from Los Angeles who were in his office back to their hotel. They were "a middle-aged mother who reminded me of Hedda Hopper and an overly cosmetized daughter who chattered endlessly," Morris wrote to "People" from his home in Ithaca, New York. "I endured their ceaseless chatter and gladly paid the cab tab, because I absolutely admired Art's clever, resourceful way to unload himself of an obvious burden."

BAGHDAD: Mike Hastings, a *Newsweek* correspondent in Baghdad, planned on Valentine's Day to ask his

girlfriend, **Andrea (Andi) Parhamovich**, to marry him. But Andi, 28, born in Ohio, was killed in Iraq in January along with three security personnel when gunmen opened fire on their convoy. She was working as a civilian consultant in Iraq to the nonprofit National Democratic Institute, which works to promote and explain democracy. *Newsweek* quoted Hastings: "We all take risks over here, and we know the risks. It's part of the job. But killing a soldier or getting whacked as a war correspondent is one thing—still tragic yet somehow more acceptable—but killing a civilian here to help is just despicable."



Andrea Parhamovich

BOSTON: The *Boston Globe* is closing its three remaining overseas bureaus—Jerusalem, Berlin and Bogotá—in a move the paper said would save more than \$1 million annually. Correspondents working in those bureaus are being offered positions in Boston. They are **Thannasis Cambanis** and **Anne Bernard** in Jerusalem, **Colin Nickerson** in Berlin and **Indira Lakshmanan** in Bogotá. **Martin Baron**, the *Globe's* editor, said reporters will be sent abroad to cover major events. "Continuing to bear the expense of our foreign bureaus would have required us to reduce staffing by a dozen or so positions beyond those already announced," Baron wrote. The *Globe's* owner, The New York Times Co., announced that about 125 positions would be eliminated at the two Massachusetts papers it owns, the *Globe* and *The Telegram & Gazette* of Worcester.

CARACAS: A court in February ordered the opposition newspaper *Tal Cual* and **Laureano Márquez**, one of its editorial writers and a humorist, to pay fines for an editorial seen as violating the privacy of President Hugo Chávez' nine-year-old daughter, Rosinés Chávez-Rodríguez. Márquez's editorial imagined a conversation between the president and his daughter. The editorial dealt with a conversation that the president had said publicly he had with his daughter. She told him it looked strange that the horse in Venezuela's coat of arms was galloping to the right. Lawmakers ordered the horse's direction reversed to the left to match the president's politics. **Teodoro**

Opportunities

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Funds print and broadcast journalists to pursue "under-reported" stories around the world
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Deadline: April 1, 2007
Website: www.internationalreportingproject.org

WORKSHOP ON COVERING HOMELAND SECURITY

Fellowships available for 15 journalists to attend a May 21-23 workshop at Johns Hopkins to examine the national response to terrorist threats since 9/11. Participants will meet with officials of the CIA, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, members of Congress, scholars, private experts and Washington reporters who cover intelligence and homeland security issues.
Deadline: April 9, 2007
Website: www.internationalreportingproject.org

Petkoff, the paper's editor, said he would protest the fines.

GUANGDONG PROVINCE, China:

Li Minying, an editor of the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, was released from prison in February after his six-year sentence was reduced to three years. Li was convicted of corruption after his paper published articles about police abuse and a medical cover-up in Guangdong Province. Another editor of the paper, **Yu Huafeng**, is still serving a six-year sentence for corruption. **Joseph Kahn** of *The New York Times* wrote, "The prosecution of the two men was widely viewed as retribution for reporting on matters that embarrassed powerful Communist Party officials."

GUANGZHOU, China:

Arnold Zeitlin, a former executive in Asia for the AP and then UPI, reported early this year that he rode a horse for the first time in 60 years, since he was 15. He was visiting the ancient Yunnan province town of Lijiang, populated by the Naxi people, who have their own language and script. He was traveling with 20 staff members of *Nan Fang Dushi Bao* [*Southern Metropolis Daily*], a Guangzhou paper so outspoken that four of its editors have been sent to prison (see previous item). Zeitlin and his companions rode horses to a lake and country inn, where he reported: "Lunch was fantastic—dish, after dish: black rice sausages, deep fried silver fish, a beef and potato soup with greens, a chicken soup with greens, pork with mushrooms, those cucumber-like greens, those bean noodles, all with rice, wow. But I could not eat much. My stomach was still on the horse." Zeitlin now is a visiting professor in the journalism school at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou.

HONG KONG: It's out and up at the *South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong's largest-circulated English-language daily. Editor **Fanny Fung**, managing editor **Pauline Loong** and business editor **Stuart Jackson** resigned in January, latest in a series of personnel changes over the past year. Named as the new editor was **C. K. Lau**, while **Mark Clifford**, an OPC member, remains editor-in-chief.

Daniel Hilken, a freelance journalist, resigned from the Foreign Correspondents' Club and its board of governors last year because he found the club too

smoky. In a letter to Club President **Chris Slaughter** that was printed in the club's monthly magazine, Hilken wrote: "I had a severe chest infection, still giving me some trouble, and I have been recommended not to go into smoky places. The club, particularly the ground floor, is very smoky, though smokers may not realize this." Slaughter, a correspondent for *Asia Pacific Vision*, replied in his Club magazine column: "We're sad to see him go, but respect his decision and his reasons for making it." **Jake van der Kamp** of Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* was appointed to fill the board vacancy.

HONOLULU: His eyes partly clouded by macular degeneration, retired foreign correspondent and opera aficionado **Jim Becker** says he can still see the stage through binoculars but no longer drives. "Talking books are a help," he wrote to friends. "I romped through Proust's 'Remembrance of Things Past,' plus his biography, in a month. When I could see, it took 25 years to get half way." During a half-century career, Becker reported for the AP from Honolulu, the Korean War, Tokyo, Manila, New Delhi and Europe; was a columnist for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*; and wrote on sports, music and drama. His mother is 106.

LONDON: **Clive Goodman**, royal correspondent for the *News of the World*, was sentenced to four months in jail in January for hacking into more than 600 messages on cell phones of the royal family including Princes William and Harry. The newspaper's editor, **Andy Coulson**, resigned and was replaced by **Colin Myer**, executive editor of the *New York Post* since 2001. Both papers are owned by **Rupert Murdoch**. Goodman's accomplice in the hacking, private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, was sentenced to six months in jail.

Club Quarters has added a third hotel to its London locations. This new Club Quarters hotel is located in an historic landmark building in the Trafalgar Square area, at 8 Northumberland Avenue. The Club Living Room will feature a stylish digital café and free workstations with computer and printer. In the spring of 2007 an elegant marble clad bar and restaurant will open. OPC members who are London bound might want to reserve at this newest hotel in the Club Quarters group.

LOS ANGELES: OPC member **Jim Colligan** revisited Tokyo in January in time to hear Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni speak at a professional lunch in the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ), which has about 350 journalist members. Jim, a member of the FCCJ while he lived in Tokyo for 30 years, said he returned to Tokyo not to hear Livni but to visit club members and staff and ask the question, "What factors make the FCCJ the greatest international press club in the world?" **Catherine Makino** of the *San Francisco Chronicle* cited stimulating discussions in the dining room, bar and sushi bar. She told Colligan, a Roman Catholic priest, that one tablemate told her, "The present Pope ought to be excommunicated." Other members praised the newsworthiness of the club's foreign and domestic speakers, the dedicated work of **Hanako Nakayama**, who manages the club library, which houses decades of clippings, perhaps Tokyo's biggest collection of English-language books on Asia, a battery of computers and a workroom. Club manager **Seishi Yoda**, a graduate of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, who Jim wrote "was cited by many of my interviewees as key to much of recent club popularity and progress." He became manager during the economic downturn of the 1990s when the board was forced to retire senior staffers whose "longtime employment had resulted in hefty, unsustainable salaries," Colligan wrote to "People." "Staff morale fell to a low."

While in Tokyo, Colligan visited **Jack Russell**, a correspondent in Asia since 1954, who was in the critical care unit of Toranomon Hospital on a ventilator after coming down with pneumonia in late November. Two months later, his daughter Delilah e-mailed "People": "He is slowly improving though it will be a long process." Colligan reported: "Jack showed no evidence of hearing me during the few minutes I spent with him unless a twitch or two in his legs were meant to show he heard."

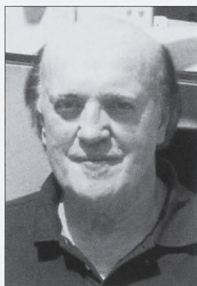
McLEAN, Virginia: More honors have been piled on **Peter Arnett**, who won a 1966 Pulitzer Prize for his Vietnam War coverage when he was an AP correspondent. He was named on Queen Elizabeth II's 2006 Honors List and in December was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of

(Continued on Page 8)

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

Merit for services to journalism. Arnett, 72, an OPC member, is a naturalized U.S. citizen but retains his New Zealand passport. The journalism school at New Zealand's Southern Institute of Technology is named for Arnett. From March to September, Arnett is a visiting professor in the Cheung Kown School of Journalism and Communications at Shantou University just north of Hong Kong. The letter from Shantou confirming his appointment made clear China's rules for foreign visitors: "As a Visiting Professor, you are kindly requested to observe the laws, decrees and relevant regulations enacted by the Chinese government; to respect Chinese people's moral standards and customs; to respect China's religious policies. In addition, you should not interfere in China's internal affairs or conduct religious activities incompatible with the status of a teacher."



Peter Arnett

MONTEREY, California: The Women's International Perspective, a news and opinion website, is being launched March 8, International Women's Day, to give women around the world the opportunity to comment on issues and events. The editor, **Sarah McGowan**, is recruiting women writers and journalists to join her global team. She told the OPC she is seeking "women writers with expertise in the subject areas of technology, economy, science, education, culture and politics." The website "is not aligned with any political party, cultural group, religion or ideology," she said. For more information, visit www.thewip.net.

MOSCOW: After NBC News closed its Moscow bureau last year, correspondent **Preston Mendenhall** landed a job publicizing one of Russia's most famous products, vodka. Mendenhall, an OPC member, became director of communications for Russian Standard Corporation, makers of



Preston Mendenhall

Russia's top-selling premium vodkas—Russian Standard Original, Russian Standard Platinum and IMPERIA, which are expanding globally. Mendenhall worked for NBC News for 13 years. Closing the Moscow bureau was part of NBC News' plan to dismiss about 300 people from its worldwide staff of 6,000 (December *Bulletin*).

MOUNT KISCO, New York: Ray Steinberg, who covered the Korean War for the International News Service and later *Time* and then reported from Japan for *Newsweek* in the 1960s, never wrote a year-end letter and rarely sent Christmas cards. But last year he composed a three-page letter to friends and relatives because 2006 was an exceptional year for him. Ray wrote that he recovered last year from a fall that fractured three ribs and punctured his lung, reconciled "after misunderstandings and long-buried resentments had estranged me from my beloved daughters," and campaigned for a Democrat who defeated a six-term Republican Congresswoman. Steinberg explained that his 2005 excuse for not writing to family and friends was his depression over Iraq: "Our leaders [have] turned our friends into enemies; provided our enemies with thousands of new recruits; mortgaged our children's futures and violated our constitution....I don't expect miracles from our new Congress; it may take a generation to repair the damage of the last six years."

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia: Digby A. Solomon, a former UPI correspondent in South America, became president, publisher and CEO of Daily Press Inc., owners of the Newport News *Daily Press* and the *Virginia Gazette*, in January. Solomon, a digital news veteran, was selected to lead the two newspapers in drawing more readers to their websites in the face of shrinking circulation. Solomon, 53, who was born in Cuba, said he encountered skepticism in his early stints running Internet news operations: "A lot of people saw it as an annoyance they had to deal with. What's different now is everyone has come to realize how important it is."

NEW YORK: Retired CBS News anchor **Walter Cronkite** believes that pressure on media companies to generate greater profits threatens the nation's freedom. "Consolidation and cost cutting may be good for the bottom line in the

short term but that isn't necessarily good for the country or the health of the news business in the long term," Cronkite, an OPC member, said in a speech at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in February. "In this information age and the very complicated world in which we live today, the need for high-quality reporting is greater than ever. It's not the journalist's job at risk here. It's American democracy. It is freedom." As broadcasters cut budgets and air time for news, he said, "we're all left with a sound bite culture that turns political campaigns into political theater."

OPC member **Werner Schmidt**, former consul for press and public information at the German Consulate, told the *Bulletin* in February that he decided to remain in New York City rather than move back to Berlin. So he accepted an offer from the United Nations to become public information officer for the UN Capital Master Plan, a \$1.9 billion project to renovate the UN New York headquarters.



Werner Schmidt

Lawrence Wright, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, has written and is performing in a one-man show based on what he experienced while writing the best-selling book, "The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11" [New York: Knopf, 2006], an account of the rise of Islamic terror and America's lagging response. Wright said he strained to maintain journalistic objectivity while interviewing people who endorsed acts of extreme cruelty. His first-person show, "My Trip to Al-Queda," opened a six-week run on March 1 at the Culture Project, 55 Mercer Street in Manhattan's Soho district. Wright spent nearly five years researching his book. *The New York Times'* **Campbell Robertson** reported: "The show recounts interviews that Mr. Wright conducted, as well as what he was thinking during those interviews; observations of life in Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a journalist; and his commentary on the changes in American policy since 9/11."

EuroNews celebrated its United States launch at a January reception hosted by **Philippe Cayla**, president and CEO of

EuroNews; Ambassador Fernando M. Valenzuela, head of the European Commission's delegation to the United Nations, and Dr. Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Germany's consul general in New York. Started in 1993, EuroNews covers world news from a European perspective. It broadcasts in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

◆
Carla Anne Robbins, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter and editor covering foreign policy and national security before she joined *The New York Times* last year, became a deputy editorial page editor at *The Times* in January. Robbins, 53, was a member of *WSJ* **Carla Anne Robbins** teams that won Pulitzer Prizes in 1999 and 2000. Also named a *Times* deputy editorial editor was **David Shipley**, 43, *Times* op-ed editor since 2003.



PORTLAND, Maine: John Rich considers Clint Eastwood's current film, "Letters from Iwo Jima," an excellent portrayal of what Japanese troops went through in defending that island in 1945 when U.S. troops landed and defeated the Japanese. He should know. During the 36-day battle, John, 89, a U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant who learned Japanese in a Navy school after Pearl Harbor, was charged with interrogating captured Japanese soldiers. "We captured very few of them," Rich, an OPC member, told "People." "We gave them a cup of coffee and a cigarette. I have great respect for those Japanese. We were lucky they didn't push us off the island." While interrogating POWs in Iwo Jima and Saipan, John obtained their home addresses. After the war, Rich was an INS and then an NBC News correspondent in Tokyo. "I looked up some of those former prisoners in Japan, and one of them became my good friend," he said. The movie describes the Iwo battle from the Japanese point of view and was the subject of two cover articles in the February issue of *No. 1 Shimbun*, the Foreign Correspondents' Club magazine. "When I read those articles, I couldn't sleep that night," Rich said.

One of the articles was written by **Haruko Watanabe**, former Tokyo bureau chief for *Depthnews*. She wrote: "In directing the film, Clint Eastwood

presented...the commander of Japan's Iwo Jima garrison, along with Japanese soldiers in general, in a sensitive, respectful way." Before World War II, the commander, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, studied in the United States and was a military attaché in the Japanese embassy in Canada. Another historic Japanese officer portrayed in the film, Baron Takeichi Nishi, won a gold medal at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics in the equestrian event and had friends among Hollywood stars. Watanabe wrote: "Officers like Kuribayashi and Nishi deserved better by Imperial Japan. Instead, they were despised by the xenophobic, nationalistic command back in Tokyo for their understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures, and thus were sent to the front to die." Watanabe was seven years old and living in Kyoto in February 1945 when U.S. Marines invaded Iwo Jima, the bloodiest battle of the Pacific War, with 35,000 dead and wounded. She visited the volcanic island with 14 members of the Tokyo Foreign Correspondents' Club in December.

SHANGHAI: In his first month as a reporter for the *China Trade News*, **Lan Chenzhang**, 35, sat in a car outside a mining company office Jan. 11 while two colleagues went inside to make inquiries. *New York Times* correspondent **Howard W. French**, an OPC member, wrote: "Mr. Lan had taken on what anyone in the area knew could be a dangerous assignment: investigating the illegal coal mines that proliferate in the sooty hill country of Shanxi Province." Before Lan's colleagues returned, a band of as many as 20 men armed with pipes and other weapons beat the reporter to death. French wrote that the killing "has become a watershed event with reporters and editors around the country seeing in the murky contours of their case a cautionary tale for their booming but deeply troubled profession." Chinese President Hu Jintao ordered a speedy investigation into the killing. The mine owner has been accused of organizing the attack. Local police were quoted as saying the journalist was planning to ask the mine owner for money in exchange for his promise not



Ken Watanabe
as Kuribayashi in
"Letters"

to publish reports about the illegal mine.

Meanwhile, Reporters Without Borders, a media watchdog group based in Paris, reported in February that 31 journalists were serving jail terms in China and 52 other people had been convicted of posting political views on the Internet. The organization cited the five-year sentence given to **Ching Cheong**, China correspondent for Singapore's *Straits Times*, and the three-year sentence of **Zhao Yan**, a researcher in *The New York Times*' Beijing bureau (January *Bulletin*). "In both cases they were convicted after shoddy trials with no defense witnesses," the group said.

TEL AVIV: Sylvana Foa, a former UPI correspondent and news editor in Asia, and former spokeswoman for UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, spent two months in Uganda last autumn helping set up a TV station funded by the Aga Khan. "The young people we were training were extremely bright and enthusiastic," Foa wrote to "People" on Feb. 1. "All went well until about a week ago when I got a message that the government had shut the station down! Groan." Foa, who has lived in Israel for about 10 years, will teach a college course in Tel Aviv this spring.

WASHINGTON: John Balzar, a former correspondent in Africa, in January became senior vice president for communications at the Humane Society of the United States. His post is a new position that reflects the Society's commitment "to advance the cause of animals and the people who care about them," the organization said. Balzar joined the Society from the *Los Angeles Times*, where he was an op-ed columnist and former Nairobi bureau chief. He told "People": "I planted my flag in the Mideast for the first Gulf War—Saudi Arabia and Iraq." During his 35 years as a newsman and writer, Balzar worked for UPI, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and for the past 24 years the *Los Angeles Times*. In announcing his appointment, the Society wrote that Balzar's work often has dealt with animals: "He has written about gorillas in Central Africa, fur seals in the Pribilof



John Balzar

(Continued on Page 10)

Islands, bowhead whales in the Beaufort Sea, elephants in Kenya, sharks on the reefs of Palau, grizzly bears in Alaska, fisheries in the North Pacific and rockfish off the continental shelf of the Pacific." A U.S. Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, Balzar was among five *Times* writers whose coverage of California wildfires won the paper the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. Balzar wrote "Yukon Alone: The World's Toughest Adventure Race" [New York: Henry Holt, 2000] about life in the Far North, site of the Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race.

WEDDING

George S. Kalogerakis, 51, deputy editor of *The New York Times* Op-Ed page, and **Daphne Poser**, 43, a project manager for development supervisors Levien & Company of New York, were married Feb. 2 by a New York State Supreme Court justice at the home of the bride's parents in Manhattan. Kalogerakis wrote "Spy: The Funny Years" [New York: Miramax Books, 2006], an anthology and history of the satirical magazine.

IN MEMORY

In January 2002, President Clinton told the Jeddah Economic Forum in Saudi Arabia that the United States must maintain its controversial troop presence in Saudi Arabia to ensure rapid response to regional threats. **Mona Megalli** covered that speech for Reuters and wrote, "Saudi Arabia depends on the United States for its defense, but has found itself walking a tightrope with increasing popular uneasiness over U.S. troops in the birthplace of Islam....[Clinton's] speech was greeted with polite applause." After working for UPI in Washington and Detroit, Knight Ridder and Bridge News in London, Megalli joined Reuters as an energy correspondent in London before becoming Reuters' economics correspondent in Cairo and later Dubai. Last summer, Mona traveled from Washington to Istanbul, where her brother Murad lives, to undergo treatment for ovarian cancer. She died in Istanbul Feb. 3 at age 49. She was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Edmund C. Arnold, 93, editor of the newspaper of the 70th U.S. Army Division while it fought through Europe in World War II, died of respiratory failure Feb. 2 in Salem, Virginia. After the war, Arnold developed an interest in

typography while working in Michigan as editor and co-owner of *The Frankenmuth News* and later picture editor of *The Saginaw News*. He introduced lively typography to newspapers and redesigned hundreds of papers including *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Newsday*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, *The National Observer*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Kansas City Star* and two newspapers in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Arnold moved to New York City in 1954 to become editor of *Linotype News*, published by Mergenthaler Linotype Company, and later taught at Syracuse University's journalism school and the graphic arts department at Virginia Commonwealth University.



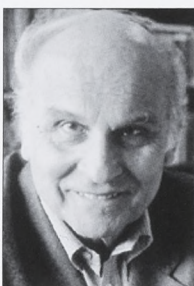
Edmund C. Arnold

Charles E. Scripps, 87, chairman of the E. W. Scripps media company from 1953-1994, died of natural causes Feb. 3 near his Naples, Florida home. His grandfather, **Edward W. Scripps**, started the company in 1878. Charles Scripps started his newspaper career at his grandfather's first newspaper, *The Cleveland Press*, and he served in the Pacific with the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II.



Charles E. Scripps

Ryszard Kapuscinski, 74, whom *The New York Times* called "Poland's best-known foreign correspondent," died Jan. 23 in Warsaw. During some four decades reporting for the Polish news agency PAP, Kapuscinski reported on conflicts throughout the developing world. He witnessed 27 coups and revolutions. In addition to his PAP dispatches, he wrote longer essays that went beyond the events he covered. From the 1970s on, these articles appeared in a series of books that in translation drew international attention. They included volumes on Latin American con-



Ryszard Kapuscinski

flicts, Angola's civil war, the rise and fall of Iran's last monarch, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the last days of Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

John W. (Pat) Hefferman, 96, the only foreigner to be elected president of the National Press Club in Washington, died Feb. 13 in a Sarasota, Florida hospice after a brief illness. An Englishman, Hefferman was elected president of the National Press Club in 1968. His election required an act of Congress to allow a non-U.S. citizen to head a corporation holding a liquor license. Hefferman, who was of Irish ancestry, became a U.S. citizen in 1996. He joined Reuters in the United States in 1946 and covered the UN for 11 years and for 20 years was the wire service's chief correspondent in Washington. He started his news career with Central News Agency on London's Fleet Street in the 1930s. During World War II, he fought with the British Army in East Africa and Burma, rising from private to major. Queen Elizabeth II made him an officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1965 and a Commander in 1970.

Joe Edwards, an artist, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, illustrating training manuals. While based in Italy, he drew animated cartoons warning of minefields around Naples. Before military service he worked on the 1942 debut issue of Archie comics, and he continued drawing Archie after the war and created the cartoon character Li'l Jinx. After years of treatment for heart problems, Edwards died Feb. 8 at his home in Central Islip, New York. He was 85.

Two former *Pacific Stars and Stripes* staffers died last October: **Francis (Casey) Ermence**, 87, who had been a photographer, writer and editor on the military newspaper, and **J. Douglas Donehue**, 78, the paper's former Okinawa bureau chief. Ermence was a retired World War II and Korean War veteran of the U.S. Army and Air Force with 22 years service. Donehue, after leaving the Air Force, was a sports editor at the Montgomery, Alabama *Advertiser* before moving in 1956 to the *News and Courier* (now *The Post and Courier*) in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was an assistant sports editor, copy editor, state editor and city editor before becoming director of corporate communications for the paper's publishing company.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

(Continued from Page 4)

Emily Rotberg

Duke University

EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family

In her essay, Emily wrote about the church service that Reuters organized to commemorate its 2005 departure from Fleet Street in London, marking the end of that street's journalistic legacy. Proficient in Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish, the Duke University senior believes she has a talent for "finding the right time to be in the wrong place." She intends to pursue a master's degree in international journalism.

Sareena Dalla

Harvard University Kennedy School
of Government

THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

*Sponsored by donations from
family and friends*

After several years as a producer at CNN, Sareena began work on a master's degree in public policy to allow her to "better analyze and report on the complex

government decisions that affect so many lives." Conversant in Thai, the University of Virginia graduate intends to return to Thailand to "serve as a voice for those that lack one" by understanding history through the eyes of the people affected.

Aaron Clark

Columbia University School of
International and Public Affairs

ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family, friends and admirers

Aaron is fascinated with South Asia, specifically with Myanmar, where the ruling junta maintains its power through "a brutal mix of fear, incompetence and poverty." The New York University graduate intends to return to Myanmar to write stories about the spread of underground humor and the effectiveness of external efforts to penetrate the country's censorship barriers.

Ed Ou

University of Southern California

DAN ELDON SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by family and friends

Fluent in Mandarin and proficient in Arabic, Spanish and French, Ed consid-

ers himself primarily a photojournalist, believing that telling stories through photographs is "not only a technical craft to be honed, but an intellectual endeavor that never ends." The USC undergraduate wrote about being part of the convoy of journalists covering the deaths of 29 civilians killed by Israeli bombs in the southern Lebanese village of Qana.

Samantha Friedman

University of Missouri School
of Journalism

FLORA LEWIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by her family and friends

Chile, Samantha wrote, is a "politically polarized country that rarely addresses its troubled past." In her essay, the Georgetown graduate described a park that had once been a torture camp and two citizens' opposite perspectives on the regime of General Augusto Pinochet. She would like to use her language skills—Spanish, Portuguese and French—and knowledge of Latin American history to improve U.S. coverage of Latino populations.

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

and the frustration of U.S. Intelligence and the military with President Roosevelt's refusal to respond to intelligence or soften his demand for Germany's unconditional surrender. A 1975 graduate of Columbia Journalism School, author Von Hassell has written about the U.S. Marine Corps, West Point and military food; runs a New York consulting group on national security and trade; and has taught classes on counter-terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Co-author MacRae is an editor and translator who writes on history and art.



Agostino von Hassell

J. Feith, then an undersecretary of defense, told journalist **James Fallows** in 2003. "His big strategic theme is uncertainty," Feith said of his boss. That is one of the episodes in Fallows' "Blind Into Baghdad: America's War in Iraq" [New York: Vintage]. The book is a collection of articles that Fallows wrote for the *Atlantic Monthly*, where he is national correspondent and former correspondent in Asia.

"Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq" [New York: Random House] draws on classified U.S. government intelligence, interviews with top field commanders and the military's after-action reports to describe "a conflict that could not be lost but one that the United States failed to win decisively." The book was written by **Michael R. Gordon**, *The New York Times* chief military correspondent, and **Bernard E. Trainor**, a retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant general, a *Times* military correspondent from 1986-1990 and now a military analyst for NBC News. The publisher wrote: "Cobra II describes how the American rush to Baghdad provided the opportunity for the virulent insurgency that followed. The brutal aftermath in Iraq was not inevitable and was a surprise to the generals on both sides."

NORTH AMERICA

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW how to raise patriotic children in these troubling times? Former OPC board member **Myrna Blyth** provides tips and activities to help American children love their country in "How to Raise an American: 1776 Fun and Easy Tools, Tips, and Activities to Help Your Child Love This Country" [New York: Crown Forum]. Co-author is **Chriss Winston**, the first woman head speechwriter for the first President Bush. Their publisher described the authors' goal: "Shocked by the growing patriotism gap, they set out to create a real-world resource all parents can use to teach their kids about the greatness of America's past, the promise of its future, and the important role each of us plays in this democracy." The book offers suggestions on how parents can teach patriotism including dinner table debates, road trips that bring America's history to life, and fun and educational ways to celebrate American holidays such as the Fourth of July and Veterans Day. Blyth, who now writes for National Review Online and the *New York Sun*, was editor-in-chief of the *Ladies' Home Journal* for more than 20 years and founding editor of *More* magazine.

MIDDLE EAST

HOW THE INVASION OF IRAQ was planned and fought is described in two books. Before the invasion, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld forbid Pentagon staff members from attending post-war planning meetings conducted by other government agencies, and he ignored criticism. That is what Douglas

New Books

GLOBAL

AS THE NEW YORK TIMES PUT IT: "P. J. O'Rourke read all 900 pages of 'The Wealth of Nations' so you don't need to." Adam Smith's 1776 treatise on capitalism and free markets ranks as an economics classic. But **Alan Sloan**, *Newsweek's* Wall Street editor, wrote in *The Times*: "Today, however, almost no one other than the obsessed (or the assigned) is likely to read Smith's book, which runs more than 900 pages; the author's convoluted prose makes it seem even longer than that....Those pages are in small type. Make that very small type." So satirist O'Rourke, an OPC member, has done us a favor by writing "On 'The Wealth of Nations'" [New York: Atlantic Monthly Press]. Reviewing the book, Sloan wrote: "O'Rourke' book, by contrast, runs to fewer than 200 pages before appendixes and notes, and has a typeface and layout suitable for modern eyes. And unlike Smith, O'Rourke is a wonderful stylist." Atlantic Monthly Press plans to make



P.J. O'Rourke

two more classics readable: the Koran and Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species." The publisher calls the three volumes "Books that Changed the World" or as O'Rourke puts it, "Works Which Let's Admit You'll Never Read the Whole Of."

"OPERA'S FLAIR FOR CONVOLUTED PLOTS, incomprehensible lyrics, hyperbolic acting and temperamental singers can seem all but impenetrable," wrote the publisher of "Eyewitness Companions: Opera" [New York: DK Publishing/Penguin Group]. The book was written by OPC member **Alan Riding**, a *New York Times* European cultural correspondent who has covered opera productions in London, Vienna, Berlin, Milan, Paris and New York, and **Leslie Dunton-Downer**, who has written librettos for operas produced in Aspen, New York, Paris, Evian, Spoleto and Moscow. Their illustrated volume includes act-by-act synopses of more than 160 operas and essays on the role of the librettist, history of opera houses, diva-worship and staging. Riding said that one reason they wrote the book was to show that opera, although often seen as intimidating and elitist, "can be friendly and accessible. True, opera began in royal courts....Yet, with its unique combination of music, drama and spectacle, opera has always been a popular form of entertainment." In a blurb, opera tenor Plácido Domingo wrote: "Packed into every page of this book is the excitement of discovery, knowledge, taste and visual beauty of opera. In some ways, it all gives the reader the illusion of being at an actual performance." Conductor Daniel Barenboim



Leslie Dunton-Downer and Alan Riding

wrote: "This book captures the art, lyricism, passion and excitement of opera through the ages."

EUROPE

A LEADER IN GERMAN RESISTANCE against Adolf Hitler, Ulrich von Hassell was hanged for his involvement in a failed 1944 attempt to assassinate the Nazi German chancellor. His grandson, **Agostino von Hassell**, and co-author **Sigrid MacRae** write about the dangerous lives of those who opposed Hitler in "Alliance of Enemies: The Untold Story of the Secret American and German Collaboration to End World War II" [New York: St. Martin's Press]. Key conspirators against Hitler operated within the upper reaches of German military intelligence, the Abwehr. Their contacts included senior figures in the Office of Strategic Services, precursor of the CIA, including Allen Dulles and William Donovan. The book describes the intricate scope of the German resistance, life in neutral cities such as Lisbon and Istanbul that were teeming with spies and refugees,

(Continued on Page 11)

3 IRAQI JOURNALISTS
In Their Own Words

Monday, March 5
at 5:30pm
Club Quarters
40 West 45 Street

◆
SAVE THE DATE
OPC AWARDS
DINNER

Thursday, April 26
at 6pm
Mandarin Oriental
Hotel

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA